

## Message Text

SECRET

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66

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 271455Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1706

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 0981

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MIDDLE EAST POLICY

1. LOCAL AMERICAN WIRE SERVICE CORRESPONDENT TELLS US FOLLOWING STORY. EVENING JAN 25 TASS BUREAU CHIEF TISOVSKIY TOLD HIM GROMYKO WOULD ARRIVE CAIRO FEB 3 AND WAS COMING TO SPEAK SEVERELY TO EGYPTIANS ABOUT BILATERAL AFFAIRS AND GENEVA. THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF "PRESSURE" BEING EXERTED ON SADAT. WIRE SERVICE CORRESPONDENT ASKED IF RECENT HARSH WORDS FROM SADAT TO VARIOUS MEDIA, ESPECIALLY LE MONDE INTERVIEW, HAD CONTRIBUTED TO DECISION TO SEND GROMYKO TO CAIRO. TASS CORRESPONDENT SAID HE DID NOT KNOW FOR SURE BUT THIS "MAY" HAVE BEEN A FACTOR.

2. TASS CORRESPONDENT ALSO SAID THAT IF SADAT MEANS BY HIS RECENT COMMENTS TO PRESS THAT NEITHER REPLACEMENT ARMS NOR ARMS CONTRACTED FOR PRIOR TO OCTOBER WAR HAVE NOT BEEN DELIVERED, THEN SADAT WAS "LYING".

3. IN INTERESTING ASIDE ON SYRIA, TASS CORRESPONDENT SAID MOSCOW HAD BEEN SURE OF ASAD'S CONVICTION THAT GENEVA SHOULD

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BE RECONVENED ASAP. FOLLOWING FAISAL'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS, HOWEVER,

MOSCOW IS LESS SURE OF ASAD'S POSITION.

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND SOVIETS HERE ARE UNDERSTANDABLY ANNOYED BY SADAT'S CRITICISM OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN RECENT PRESS INTERVIEWS, AND ARE IRRITATED BY WHAT SEEMS TO THEM (AND TO US) OBVIOUS GOE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH RESULTED IN JAN 26 NEWSPAPERS FEATURING LARGE PICTURES OF AMBASSADOR EILTS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT THE SAME TIME AS GROMYKO'S VISIT WAS ANNOUNCED. SOVIET EMBOFFS HAVE RECENTLY ALSO COMPLAINED TO US OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE GOE BEAURACRATIC HARRASSMENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. SUCH AS

IMPORTS OF PERSONEL EFFECTS, WITHHOLDING OF SOVIET NEWSPAPERS, ETC.

EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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